

Appl. No. 10/062,700
Amdt Dated: May 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 1, 2005

App 1403

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Claims 3 and 15 claim receiving virtual path identifier information (VPI) for each virtual connection. In paragraph 218, Nguyen describes how a network administrator can use the software in Nguyen to establish a new virtual connection in a network using previously collected VPI and VCI data. This is different from receiving the VPI as a part of a method to determine a configuration of at least a portion of a network when the network connectivity is unknown.

Claims 4 and 16 claim receiving virtual channel identifier (VCI) information for each virtual connection. In paragraph 218, Nguyen describes how a network administrator can use the software in Nguyen to establish a new virtual connection in a network using previously collected VPI and VCI data. This is different from receiving the VCI as a part of a method to determine a configuration of at least a portion of a network when the network connectivity is unknown.

Claims 5 and 17 claim determining one or more identifiers for each of the one or more virtual connections. Paragraph 0218 is discussed above. Paragraph 0219 describes how a network administrator can use the software in Nyugen to establish a new virtual path connection in a network using previously collected VPI data. Nyugen fails to teach or suggest determining a portion of a network configuration when the connectivity is unknown by determining one or more identifiers for each of the one or more virtual connections.

* Received: 4 pages. CH

additional pg.

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Claims 6 and 18 claim determining at least one link between the subset of the nodes comprising determining the subset of nodes having the same one or more identifiers. Paragraph 0220 of Nyugen describes how a network administrator can use the Nyugen software to find available VPI and VCI for new connections. The paragraph does not describe how to establish that there is a link between two network elements when the existence of the link is unknown. Claims 6 and 8 are a part of a method for identifying unknown links between network elements.

Claims 7 and 19 claim determining one or more identifiers comprising determining a virtual path identifier for each of the one or more virtual connections. In paragraph 218, Nguyen describes how a network administrator can use the software in Nguyen to establish a new virtual connection in a network using previously collected VPI and VCI data. This is different from receiving the VPI as a part of a method to determine a configuration of at least a portion of a network when the network connectivity is unknown.

Claims 8 and 20 claim determining one or more identifiers comprising determining a virtual channel identifier for each of the one or more virtual connections. In paragraph 218, Nguyen describes how a network administrator can use the software in Nguyen to establish a new virtual connection in a network using previously collected VPI and VCI data. This is different from receiving the VPI and VCI as a part of a method to determine a configuration of at least a portion of a network when the network connectivity is unknown.

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Claims 9 and 21 are dependent upon Claim 1 and claim that the determining respective labels comprises determining a number of the virtual connections traversing the nodes and determining respective cardinalities of the nodes based on the number of virtual connections. Paragraph 0220 describes how a network administrator can use the Nguyen software to find available VPI and VCI for new connections. It does not describe how to establish that there is a link between two network elements when the existence of the link is unknown. Claims 9 and 21 are a part of a method for identifying unknown links between network elements.

Claims 10 and 22 claims determining the subset of nodes having the same cardinality. Paragraph 0616 describes how an external network is connected to a network element of the Nyugen patent application. This is a new link, but it is a known link; as are all links between network elements in the Nyugen patent application. Claims 10 and 22 are part of a method for identifying unknown links between network elements.

Claims 11 and 23 claim receiving additional status information when the subset of nodes exceeds a threshold number of nodes. The threshold rules described in paragraph 0882, and other paragraphs describing threshold rules, apply to network monitoring using software of the Nyugen patent application. These threshold rules are not used for identifying unknown connections. Claims 11 and 23 are a part of a method for identifying unknown links between network elements.

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Claims 12 and 24 claim that the number of nodes is 2. The threshold rules described in paragraph 0887, and other paragraphs describing threshold rules, apply to network monitoring using software of the Nyugen patent application. These threshold rules are not used for identifying unknown connections. Claims 12 and 24 are a part of a method for identifying unknown links between network elements.

It is respectfully submitted that for the reasons set forth above Claims 1 to 26 in the application should be deemed allowable over the art of record.

Reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-26 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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